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PATENT APPLICATION OF
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ENTITLED
WALL MOUNTED DSL ADAPTER JACK WITH LATCHES
FOR ATTACHMENT

Docket No. C64.12-0046

**WALL MOUNTED DSL ADAPTER JACK WITH LATCHES
FOR ATTACHMENT**

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based on, refers to and
5 claims priority on Provisional Patent Application
Serial No. 60/400,601, filed August 2, 2002, the
content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates a wall
10 mounted adapter jack that adds a DSL filtering
circuit to a wall mounted telephone plate that has
headed studs normally used for mounting a phone. The
wall mounted DSL adapter jack of the present
invention has a base that latches onto the existing
15 phone mounting studs using pivoting latches, and
supports a filter circuit and a jack for receiving a
telephone plug. A cover plate goes over and is
supported on the base wall, and in the present
invention studs for supporting a phone on the cover
20 are provided.

The so-called "630 style" kitchen jack has
long been made, and is very popular. It uses a wall
plate such as that shown in U.S. Patent 4,411,485.
The wall plate in patent '485 has studs for holding a
25 telephone. In one case a filter device adapter made
by Excelsus Technologies, utilizes sliding studs at
the top and bottom that will hold onto the existing
studs of a wall plate and provide a filter circuit
connected to an output jack on a cover. At present,

it is desirable to provide DSL filtering on the phone lines, since DSL usage has expanded.

Prior art devices have used metal threaded studs that support the telephone. The studs on the adapter are used for holding a telephone with a keyhole type support.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a molded adapter assembly comprising a wall mounted, DSL filter jack, mountable on what is commonly called a "630 style kitchen jack" that includes latch arms supported onto a base and capable of pivoting for receiving and latching onto studs of a wall mounted telephone jack. The base carries supports for a PC board having a DSL filter and an output telephone jack. A cover is attached to the base and studs are provided that can be used for supporting a wall phone in place.

The unit is easily molded, and by coring the studs from the back, they can be molded in place. The pivotable latches provide a rapid, easily made structure that is also easily assembled onto a wall plate. The output jack on the adapter is connected to the existing wall jack through a DSL line filter.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is an illustrative view of an adapter wall plate and cover adjacent each other and shown about to be installed on an existing wall phone mount in an exploded form;

Figure 2 is a rear view of the adapter base plate with the cover plate in position and a latch arm in closed position;

Figure 3 is a rear fragmentary view of the adapter showing the latch arm in an open position wherein it can be fitted over a phone mounting stud;

Figure 4 is a schematic fragmentary rear view of the adapter cover used in the present invention;

Figure 5 is a fragmentary front view of the cover shown in Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a rear view of the mounting plate or base;

Figure 7 is a front view of the mounting plate or base shown in Figure 6;

Figure 8 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the adapter in position on an existing telephone mounting stud on a wall;

Figure 9 is a front exploded view of a modified form of the DSL Adapter wall jack that attaches to an existing wall mounted jack plate;

Figure 10 is a rear exploded view of the DSL adapter of Figure 9;

Figure 11 is a top view with the upper wall of a cover removed for illustrative purposes;

Figure 12 is a sectional view taken as on line 12-12 in Figure 11;

Figure 13 is an enlarged sectional view taken as on line 13-13 in Figure 11; and

Figure 14 is a rear view of the DSL adapter of Figure 9.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In Figure 1, the adapter jack assembly indicated generally at 10, as shown, is made up of two major mounting parts, including a base plate 12. The base plate 12 can be latched to the studs 13 (top and bottom, but only the top is shown) of an existing wall mounted phone jack plate or box 15. The existing plate 15 is secured to a wall 17. The adapter includes a cover plate 18 that has molded retainer pins 19 on its back side (Figure 4) that slip into sleeves 16 and retain the cover 18 on the base 12. As can be seen the cover has a front panel 20, a top wall 22, and side walls 24. A jack 26 is supported on the base plate 12 in a desired manner, and a jack opening housing 28 is provided on the front wall 20 of the cover.

The jack opening shown at 30 is configured to receive a plug that will fit into the jack 26. The jack 26 is part of a printed circuit board 27 that carries a DSL line filter. The line filter circuit is connected to a plug on the rear side of the base that plugs directly into a jack on phone plate 15. The output jack 26 is thus a filtered line for connection to a telephone and a computer peripheral. The PC board 27 is supported on the base plate 12 in a known manner, such as with screws or the like.

The base plate 12 has a support portion 32, for supporting jack 26 and its circuit board 27 in a desired location and position. In addition, at both the top and the bottom of the base plate 12, a
5 hinging latch assembly 38 is provided. The latch assembly 38 molds into the wall plate 32, and has a resilient mount formed with a molded flange 40 that extends out from the wall plate, and the mount includes an upright wall portion 42, and a reverse
10 flange 44 so that it makes a generally inverted U-shape when viewed from the front as shown in Figure 1.

This forms a spring hinge for the latch. The wall 42 has an aperture 46 that provides
15 clearance for a guide 52 on the rear of the cover. The latch housing 48 is secured to the top wall 44 of the flexible resilient hinge. The latch housing has a wall 47 that has a recess 45 that fits over the shanks 13A of existing studs 13 (top and bottom) for
20 holding the base plate 12 in place. As can be seen in Figures 3 and 8 for example the latch and the top wall can both be flexed or pivoted, for latching action. The corner edge 49 of the latch 48 opposite from wall 47 has a rounded, concave recess formed,
25 which forms a pivot surface for the latch against a rounded convex edge 54 of an opening 58 in wall 22 of the cover 18.

The cover includes wall 52 protruding from the back surface, to provide a guide through opening

46. As seen in Figure 8, the edge 54 engages the concave edge 49 of the latch 48 to form a pivot axis for pivoting or hinging the latch 48 to its position, as shown in Figure 3. In that position, the wall 47
5 of the latch is raised so it can slide over stud 13.

Installation is made by attaching the cover to the base plate 12, if desired, after printed circuit board and the jack have been put into place on the base. The latch 48 can be pivoted about the
10 edge 54 on the recess of the cover, as shown in Figure 8. The latch raises upwardly as shown in Figure 3 (or downwardly for the lower latch) so the wall 47 is behind the head of stud 13 so the shank of stud 13 slips into the recesses 45. The upper edge
15 of recess 45 is raised, using a finger tab 56, on the latch. The adapter 10 is slid adjacent the existing plate 15. The latch 48 then can be moved to overlies the shank of stud 13 and moved to a closed position trapping the head of stud 13 behind wall 47 as shown
20 in Figures 6 and 8. The latch will spring to closed position to secure the base. Again, there are latches at both the top and bottom of the base plate 12.

In addition, the cover 18 is provided with a molded in support stud 60 for supporting a
25 telephone having a keyhole slot, such as that shown in U.S. Patent 4,411,485, the showing of which is incorporated by reference. The telephone has keyhole openings in the back, and studs 60 are provided at both the top and the bottom of the cover 18 so that

there are two studs 60 holding the telephone in place when it is latched onto the cover, with a plug on the telephone engaged in the output jack on the cover. As can be seen, in Figure 4 the stud 60 has a central support 62, and includes web arms 64 that are molded to edges of an opening 66, so that the head 68 of the molded stud 60 can be molded in place when cored from the back.

Figure 8 illustrates the stud 60 in place with its head 68 positioned outwardly from the outer surface of the front wall 20 of the cover.

The assembly has molded in studs at the top and bottom of the cover, (the cover is symmetrical from top to bottom) as well as molded in latches on the base plate.

This eliminates several metal parts, that are normally used, and eliminates the need for sliding latches for holding a base in place on an existing wall plate.

A modified form of the present invention is shown in Figures 9-14 and referring to those Figures, a DSL adapter jack, is shown exploded in Figures 9 and 10 at 80, and is made of substantially the same parts as the first form of the invention. A circuit carried by the adapter jack operates in substantially the same way as the first form of the invention. The adapter jack 80 is made up of two major mounting parts including a base plate 84, that will pivotally mount latch assemblies so that the adapter can be

latched onto the studs of a wall mounted jack plate, for example, the one shown at 13 in Figure 1, and in other views. The mounting studs are on an existing wall mounted phone plate or box. The adapter has a
5 cover plate 88 that will mount onto the base plate and be held in place.

In this form of the invention, as well, a circuit board 87 is mounted onto the base plate 84, when assembled, and it has a plug that is just
10 schematically shown at 90 in Figure 10 that will fit through an opening 92 in the base plate 84 and will be used for plugging into the existing jack on a kitchen wall plate or the like. The circuit board 87 will then be connected in the telephone line, and the
15 DSL filter circuit components 94 on the circuit board 87 will be in the line. The circuit board 87 also carries a jack on the output side indicated at 96, which will align with a jack opening 98 on the cover 88, and will receive a plug from a telephone line for
20 use on DSL connections for computers, as well as telephone connections.

In this form of the invention, the base plate 84 has open ended recesses 100 at the top, and 102 at the bottom, that are aligned with the studs on
25 a wall plate to which a telephone can be attached. Pivoting stud latches 104 are provided to engage studs from an existing wall plate passing through these openings. The same number is used on both the

top and bottom stud latches, because one is merely inverted from the other one on the base plate 84.

The pivoting stud latches 104 are supported for pivotal movement on open pivot channels 106, which are positioned on opposite sides of the openings 100 and 102. These pivot channels 106 are formed with divider walls 110 on one side, and then shorter inner walls 112. A base wall 113 can be seen in Figure 11, from a top view.

10 The channel open sides face outwardly, that is, the top channels 106 are opened upwardly and the bottom channels 106 are opened downwardly. The pivoting stud latches 104 are provided with a pair of pivot ears 114, which are supported on and extend laterally from side walls 116 of the latches 104. The pivot ears 114 are offset so they will fit into the ends of the channels 106. The stud latches 104 also have a base wall 118 that is an exterior surface when the adapter jack is in position on a wall. The pivoting stud latches 104 carry U-shaped open top housings 120 (see Figure 10) that have end walls 122 with generally U-shaped openings 124 therein. The end walls 122 form a flange or collar around openings 124. The U-shaped openings 124 are for the same purposes as the openings 45 in the first form of the invention, and they are made so that they will receive the shank portions of the studs on a wall plate, and with the head on the interior between the side walls of the housings 120. The mounting stud

head is held in the housings 120 by the wall or flange 122. The housings 120 are integral with the face wall 118 of the pivoting stud latches 104.

5 The pivot ears 114 will be received in the pivot channels 106, and rest on the base walls 114, between the walls 112 and end portions of walls 110, generally as shown in Figure 11.

10 The cover 88 fits over the base wall 84 and the DSL circuit board 87, which is supported on suitable guides on the base wall, and fits over the pivot ears 114 of the pivoting latches 104. End walls 120 of the cover will retain the pivot ears 114 in place in channels 106.

15 The cover 88 is latchable in place to overlie the base 84. The cover, as can be seen, has end walls 121, and side walls 123. In addition, the cover has a front wall 125. The cover front wall 125 has openings 126 at the top and bottom that are of size so that the front walls 118 of the pivoting stud latches 104 fit within those openings. In addition, it can be seen that the lower edge of the upper opening 126 and the upper edge of the lower opening 126 have tapered sections 130 that are used for prying the latches 104 to start them pivoting.

25 The pivoting stud latches 104 have part annular guide walls or tracks 134 on the ends of the side walls 116 opposite from the pivot ears 114, and these walls 134 act as guides, and include detent ridges 136 in position to engage the side edge

sections 131 on the lower edge of the upper opening 126 in the cover and the upper edge of the lower opening 126 to detent the stud latches 104 in a closed position and also in an open position by
5 engaging or rubbing against the side edge sections 131 on opposite sides of the tapered section 130. Additionally, the walls or tracks 134 have raised lips 135 that will act as stops to provide for stopping of the outward pivoting of the pivoting stud
10 latches when the latches are put into their position for receiving the studs on an existing wall plate.

It can be seen that the side walls 116 are tapered from the pivot ears 114 to the guides 136.

Referring to Figure 12, it can be seen that
15 the base plate 84 is adjacent to an existing wall plate 138, shown schematically, which has conventional mounting studs 140 thereon. The studs 140 have shanks 140A and heads 140B. The base plate 84 is shown in cross section, and the pivoting
20 latches 104 are illustrated in solid lines in position where they would be latched onto the studs 140. The dotted line positions of Figure 12 show the pivoting stud latches 104 pivoted outwardly, with the pivot ears 114 permitting this pivoting. There is a
25 stud 142 on the outside wall or surface 118 of each of the pivoting stud latches 114.

Figure 13 is a view through the center of the pivoting stud latches, and is somewhat enlarged. It shows the retainer or housing 120 in position with

the wall member 122 around the shank 140A of the stud 140, and the cover front wall 130 in position. The front wall of the cover has a lock member 144 that will slip into a retainer 146 that is mounted on the
5 base plate 84, and when the lock member slips into place, it locks the cover 88 onto the base plate 84 so that the pivot ears 114 are held in place and the pivoting stud latches can rotate between the dotted line position shown in Figures 13 and 14 and the
10 solid line position wherein it is latched onto a stud 140.

The recess 124 in the housing 120 is illustrated in Figure 13 as well, and the detent lugs 136 that will engage the edges 131 are shown on the
15 guides or tracks 136. Additional catches can be used for holding the cover in position on the base plate, if desired.

The pivoting stud latches 104 are pivoted to their open positions shown in dotted lines, and
20 then the base plate and cover assembly, which will be put together before placing the DSL adapter onto a wall plate, are moved up against the wall plate, with the end walls 122 of the retainers or housings 120 down below the studs on the existing wall plate. The
25 base plate 84 is placed up against the surface of the existing wall plate and the studs 140 are on the inner side of the base plate 84. The housing 120 of the pivoting stud latches are clear of the heads 140B. The pivoting stud latches 104 are then pivoted

to their solid line, locked position and the walls or collars 122 slip behind heads 140B and the shanks 140A slide into the openings 124. The solid line, locked positions are shown in Figures 12 and 13, as well as in Figure 14.

Figure 14 is a back view of the base plate 84, and the cover plate 88 is in position around the base plate. The DSL filter circuit board has side jack housings 149 that fit into openings 151 in the side walls of the base plate and recesses or openings 152 on the side walls 123 of the cover, so more than one plug can be connected to the circuit. The plugs 149 are accessible from the sides of the adapter. Suitable guides 150 on the base plate will fit into openings 152 on the side walls 123 of the cover 88.

Assembly of the base plate, cover plate, and circuit board are easily installed to provide for a DSL filter through the existing telephone lines. The output jack accessible through opening 98 can easily be put into place as well.

Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, workers skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.